



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

SPINE HOSPITAL OF SOUTH TEXAS
18600 NORTH HARDY OAK BLVD
SAN ANTONIO TX 78258

Respondent Name

SAFEGUARD INSURANCE CO

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 11

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-05-3070-01

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "On the EOB provided by the Carrier, a blanket application of code 'M' was indicated for each billed amount, however, code 'M' does not apply to billed amounts that have an established 'MAR' per the TWCC Fee Guidelines. The Commission's instructions state that payment exception code 'F' is to be 'used when the IC is reducing payment from the billed amount in accordance with the appropriate TWCC fee guidelines MAR...NOT used by reductions based on lack of documentation or for charges for which TWCC has not established an MAR'."

Amount in Dispute: \$12,239.58

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: The respondent did not submit a response to this request for medical fee dispute resolution.

Response Submitted by: None

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
September 24, 2004	Outpatient Surgery	\$12,239.58	\$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1 provides for fair and reasonable reimbursement of health care in the absence of an applicable fee guideline.

3. Texas Labor Code §413.011 sets forth provisions regarding reimbursement policies and guidelines.
4. This request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on December 27, 2004.
5. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
 - M-allowance for this procedure was made at the "Fair and Reasonable" amount for this geographical area.
 - O-Denial after reconsideration.
 - M-No MAR.

Findings

1. This dispute relates to services with reimbursement subject to the provisions of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1, effective May 16, 2002, 27 *Texas Register* 4047, which requires that "Reimbursement for services not identified in an established fee guideline shall be reimbursed at fair and reasonable rates as described in the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, §413.011 until such period that specific fee guidelines are established by the commission."
2. Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual's behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(B), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to send additional documentation relevant to the fee dispute including "a copy of any pertinent medical records." Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not provided copies of all medical records pertinent to the services in dispute. Although the requestor did submit a copy of the operative report, the requestor did not submit a copy of the anesthesia record, post-operative care record, or other pertinent medical records sufficient to support the services in dispute. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(g)(3)(B).
4. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(C)(iv), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires that the request shall include a position statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include "how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue." Review of the requestor's documentation finds that the requestor has not discussed how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(g)(3)(C)(iv).
5. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(D), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to provide "documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the payment amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement." Review of the submitted documentation finds that:
 - The requestor's position statement asserts that "On the EOB provided by the Carrier, a blanket application of code 'M' was indicated for each billed amount, however, code 'M' does not apply to billed amounts that have an established 'MAR' per the TWCC Fee Guidelines. The Commission's instructions state that payment exception code 'F' is to be 'used when the IC is reducing payment from the billed amount in accordance with the appropriate TWCC fee guidelines MAR...NOT used by reductions based on lack of documentation or for charges for which TWCC has not established an MAR'."
 - The disputed services are outpatient surgical services. The Division did not have a fee guideline for outpatient services on the disputed date of service. The requestor seeks to break down the components of the outpatient surgical services and seek dispute resolution for each individual service. The requestor did not submit documentation to support that this methodology is accepted by the Division, Medicare, and other insurance carriers.
 - The requestor did not submit documentation to support that "'M' does not apply to billed amounts that have an established 'MAR' per the TWCC Fee Guidelines" for the disputed services.
 - The requestor did not submit documentation to support that payment of the amount sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in this dispute.
 - The requestor did not submit nationally recognized published studies or documentation of values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments to support the requested reimbursement.
 - The requestor did not support that payment of the requested amount would satisfy the requirements of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the documentation submitted by the requestor finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

Conclusion

The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307. The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to support its position that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

1/5/2012

Date

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision* together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.****

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.